

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 ABF-01 OPR-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 /023 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3801

UNCLAS MEXICO 7821

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, MX

SUBJ: REPRESENTATION FUNDING

REF: LETTER OF AUGUST 23 TO AMBASSADOR

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY THOMAS FROM CHARGE

1. IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR DATA TO SUPPORT INCREASED REPRESENTATION FUNDS FOR FY 76.

A. WE HAD NO OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS LAST FY OWING TO FORTUNATE AND UNANTICIPATED YEAR-END WINDFALL. IN ANY EVENT, WE QUESTION CONCEPT OF JUSTIFYING REPRESENTATION INCREASES ON BASIS OF "OUT-OF-POCKET" FORMULA, BELIEVING MANY OFFICERS WILL RESTRICT REPRESENTATION ACTIVITIES KNOWING FUNDS NOT AVAILABLE TO THEM. WE BELIEVE BETTER FORMULA, WHICH SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED BY DEPT., IS SOUND REPRESENTATIONAL PLANNING, DEMONSTRATING NEEDS AND CITING RESULTS.

B. AMBASSADOR'S AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICER'S REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-REIMBURSEABLE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS ARE SIGNIFICANT AT THIS POST. WE HAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF VISITING AMERICAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL, FOR WHOM HOSPITALITY IS ESSENTIAL, AND INDEED VERY MUCH IN NATIONAL INTEREST IN TERMS OF POLICY EXCHANGES. SOME SITUATION PREVAILS FOR IN-HOUSE CONFERENCES: COMMERCIAL CONSULTATIONS, NARCOTICS MEETINGS, PO AND CONSULAR CONFERENCES, PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS WITH OFFICERS FROM CONSTITUENT POSTS, ETC. ESTIMATED UNREIMBURSED COSTS ABOUT \$2,000.

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C. STAFF SOCIAL FUNCTIONS GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR AND TO LIMITED EXTENT SENIOR OFFICERS FOR NEW ARRIVALS ARE CONSIDERED REALISTIC AND PROFITABLE IN TERMS MANAGEMENT AND MORALE OF THE ORGANIZATION. AMBASSADOR AND OTHERS HAVE SUCH WORKING EVENTS ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE TIMES A YEAR AT ANNUAL COST ABOUT \$1,000.

D. OTHER FACTORS: OTHER AGENCIES INCREASING STAFF BY ABOUT 90 AMERICANS. BUILDUP AFFECTS OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTACTS, INCREASES POTENTIAL NEED FOR REPRESENTATIONAL FUNDING. WE HAVE EVER-INCREASING EMPHASIS ON COMMERCIAL AND TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES. OUR 14 COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC OFFICERS SHARE \$2,200 IN REPRESENTATIONAL FUNDS, EVERAGING ONLY \$150 APIECE, OR AS APPORTIONED RANGING FROM \$400 DOWN TO \$100 PR YEAR. OBVIOUSLY THEY COULD USE FAR MORE THAN THAT AMOUNT TO FURTHER OUR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. AS FOR INCREASED PRICES, A YEAR AGO A BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCH AT A GOOD , BUT NOT TOP, RESTAURANT RAN ABOUT \$6.00; TODAY IT IS OVER \$9.00. GENERALLY RESTAURANT PRICES ARE UP 33 O/O.

2. WE KNOW INCREASES IN FUNDING DO NOT COME EASILY, AND THAT WE MUST CONTINUE TO "DOCUMENT" OUR CASE. WE APPLAUD YOUR EFFORTS IN THIS NEXT ROUND.
BRANDIN

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